

Storage & Exhibit Materials



Ford Conservation Center

2021

Safe Materials

Through research and experimentation, chemists and conservators have determined some general guidelines for the selection of materials for use with valuable heirlooms, museum objects, and library collections. The following materials have been determined to be **relatively safe for use in close proximity to collection objects**:

◆ Plastics

Polypropylene plastics, (PP), Recycling Code 5

Polyethylene plastics, fibers, and foam (Volara®, Ethafoam®, Trirod®), (HDPE, LDPE), Recycling Codes 2 and 4

Polystyrene plastics, (PS), Recycling Code 6

Polyester sheeting (polyethylene terephthalate esters, Mylar D®, Melinex®)

Polyester fibers (Dacron®, Terylene®) and plastics, (PET, PETE), Recycling Code 1

Polycarbonate sheeting (Lexan®)

Polymethylmethacrylate ester sheeting (Plexiglas®, UV Plexiglas®)

◆ Acrylic glues and paints

◆ Inorganic pigments

◆ Powder coated metals

◆ Glass

◆ Ceramics

◆ Fabrics

Undyed, sizing-free cotton or linen fabrics and cloth tapes

Cotton Stockinet®, t-shirt fabric

Tyvek® Sheeting

Velcro

100% Polyester felt

Polyester fiber (Dacron®, Terylene®) loose and needle-punch batting

Cotton fiber batting

◆ Paper, tissue, and board

Acid-free, lignin-free buffered and unbuffered

Non-formaldehyde based press board (Medex®)

Micro-Chamber® products (used to adsorb vaporous pollutants and deterioration products)

Acid-free, lignin-free phase board stock

100% cotton rag (mat board)

◆ **Corrosion Intercept® products** (protects copper, silver, brass, bronze, and steel)

Unsafe Materials

The following materials are known to be **harmful in close proximity to museum objects**:

- ♦ Polyvinyl chloride plastics, (PVC), Recycling Code 3
- ♦ Polyvinylidene chloride plastics (example: Saran Wrap®)
- ♦ Vinyl "fabrics" (example: Naugahyde®)
- ♦ Rubber, rubber foams, rubber-based glues
- ♦ Polyurethane plastics and foams (with some exceptions such as moisture cure coatings)
- ♦ Uncoated woods, plywood, and pressed boards
- ♦ Many dyed textiles and paper products
- ♦ Wool and acidic natural fibers, such as jute
- ♦ Ground wood paper and board
- ♦ Most tapes
- ♦ Most fire-retardant additives

Conservation Suppliers

Conservation Resources International

7350-A Lockport Place

Lorton, Virginia 22079

Toll free: (800) 634-6932

www.conservationresources.com

Archival housing/storage supplies, photographic supplies, general

Gaylord Archival

P. O. Box 4901

Syracuse, NY 13221-4901

Toll Free: (800) 448-6160

www.gaylord.com

General conservation supplies, housing supplies

Hollinger Metal Edge, Inc.

9401 Northeast Drive

Fredericksburg, VA 22408

Toll Free: (800) 634-0491

www.hollingermetaledge.com

Archival housing/storage supplies

Light Impressions

100 Carlson Road

Rochester, NY 14610

Toll Free: (888) 222-2054

www.lightimpressionsdirect.com

Photographic supplies, housing, matting and framing supplies

University Products

517 Main Street

P. O. Box 101

Holyoke, MA 01041

Toll Free: (800) 628-1912

www.universityproducts.com

General conservation supplies, housing and matting supplies

Talas

330 Morgan Ave

Brooklyn, NY 11211

Telephone: (212) 219-0770

www.talasonline.com

Conservation supplies, photographic supplies, general

Recommendations in this pdf are provided as a public service for guidance only. Neither inclusion nor exclusion of products or providers constitutes endorsement or lack thereof. The Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center does not assume responsibility or liability, expressed or implied, for any resulting activities involving any collections or objects.

Ford Conservation Center

1326 S 32 Street Omaha, NE 68105 402-595-1180

hn.fordcenter@nebraska.gov history.nebraska.gov/conservation-center



Preserving the Past.
Building the Future.